

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 30194 232109Z

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4986

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB

SUBJECT: DGB AND CGT-CGIL BID TO ETUC

REF: PARIS 29524

1. NOVEMBER 15 ISSUE OF INTERSOCIAL (LIAISON SOCIALES) A BI-WEEKLY MAGAZINE OF INTERNATIONAL LABOR NEWS, DISTRIBUTED TO 4,000 SUBSCRIBERS, REPORTS THAT IN LIGHT OF REPEATED STATEMENTS BY SEGUY OF CGT THAT DGB SUPPORTS CGT BID TO JOIN ETUC INTERSOCIAL ASKED ITS (READ AFP) CORRESPONDENT IN BONN TO QUERY OSCAR VETTER, DGB PRESIDENT I HE "CONTINUES TO VETO ENTRY INTO ETUC OF CGT AND CGIL AND IF SO, FOR WHAT REASONS," VETTER REPLIED THAT HE HAS NOT CHANGED OPINION AND THAT "ADMISSION OF CGT AND CGIL IN ETUC IS NOT POSSIBLE BECAUSE ETUC CONSTITUTION PROVIDES THAT ONLY ICFTU MEMBERS CAN BE ALSO MEMBERS OF ETUC.

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2. IN EDITORIAL COMMENT INTERSOCIAL POINTS OUT THAT

VETTER'S RESPONSE IS PROBABLY BASED ON PREAMBLE OF ETUC, CONSTITUTION BUT THAT THE CONTITUTION ITSELF ENVISAGES THE POSSIBILITY OF APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP BY OTHER CONFEDERATIONS WHICH MUST BE REVIEWED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND RATIFIED BY THE CONGRESS. INTERSOCIAL CONCLUDES THAT APPARENTLY THE SAME ETUC TEXT IS SUBJECT TO DIFFERENT INTERPRETATIONS.

3. IN CONVERSATION WITH LABATT, INTERSOCIAL EDITOR SAID THAT A NUMBER OF HIS READERS DID NOT THINK THAT VETTER'S RESPONSE WAS UNEQUIVOCAL. HE PERSONALLY WAS STRUCK BY FACT THAT VETTER ADDRESSED HIMSELF TO THE QUESTION OF WHETHER CGT-CGIL ADMISSION WAS "POSSIBLE" UNDER ETUC CONSTITUTION AND NOT WHAT HE AS DGB PRESIDENT, THOUGHT OF THE CGT-CGIL BID FOR ADMISSION, WHICH WAS REALLY QUESTION POSED BY BONN CORRESPONDENT.

4. COMMENT: BONN OF COURSE IN BETTER POSITION TO COMMENT BUT IT OCURS TO US THAT VETTER CERTAINLY CAN CLAIM THAT HOW HE VOTES IN ETUC COUNCILS COUNTS MORE THAN WHAT HE REPLIES TO PRESS UNQUIRIES.

ANDERSON

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